



## Arizona Department of Public Safety

**- For Immediate Release -**

Wednesday February 27, 2008

### Arizona Department of Public Safety traffic stop results in the seizure of 20 pounds of Cocaine

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 10:38 a.m., an Arizona Department of Public Safety Officer stopped a green sedan for following too close on I-10 westbound at milepost 207 (near Picacho Peak). A subsequent search of the vehicle with the assistance of DPS Canine "Walker" revealed eight separate packages of Cocaine which combined to weigh a total of 20 pounds.

The Cocaine was located in a non-factory compartment in the area of the passenger side airbag. The vehicle was seized.

Arrested: Francisco Balderrama, 37, of Tucson

He was booked into the Pima County Jail for transportation of narcotics for sale and possession of narcotics.

*The mission of the Arizona Department of Public Safety, one of the most dynamic state-level law enforcement agencies in the United States, is to protect human life and property by enforcing state laws, deterring criminal activity, assuring the safety of the motoring public on Arizona's highways and providing vital scientific, technical and operational support to other criminal justice agencies. The Department, also one of Arizona's largest law enforcement agencies with some 2,200 sworn and civilian employees, consists of four divisions – Highway Patrol, Criminal Investigations, Criminal Justice Support and Agency Support. The Department is headquartered in Phoenix and has offices located in more than 80 communities within Arizona's 15 counties.*

#### **Press Inquiries:**

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